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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : T. SENOH et al.

Appln. No. : 10/069,967

Filed : March 8, 2002

For : CONTENT DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND METHOD THEREOF

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby call the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

U.S. Patent No. 6,055,513 to KATZ et al., issued April 25, 2000.

An International Search Report issued January 17, 2002, in PCT Application No. PCT/JP01/05870 (published as WO 02/05099), which is a counterpart to the instant application, in which the following documents were cited:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication 2000-20600 to HITACHI, LTD., published January 21, 2000, was cited as being a "Y" category document (i.e. indicating particular relevance if combined with another document of the same category), with respect to claims 1-3, 6-10, 13-17, 19 and 20 of the corresponding PCT application; the Examiner did not indicate a particular portion as being relevant. This document was also cited as being an "A"

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category document (i.e. document relevant to the technological background) with respect to claims 4, 5, 11, 12 and 18 of the corresponding PCT application.

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication 59-231650 to USAC Electronics Industrial Company, Ltd, published December 26, 1984, was cited as being a "Y" category document with respect to claims 1-3, 6-10, 13-17, 19 and 20 of the corresponding PCT application; the Examiner indicated page 4, upper left column, line 7 to page 4, upper right column, line 4 as being relevant. This document was also cited as being an "A" category document with respect to claims 4, 5, 11, 12 and 18 of the corresponding PCT application.

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication 11-185,383 to RICOH COMPANY, LTD., published July 9, 1999, was cited as being a "Y" category document with respect to claims 1-3, 6-10, 13-17, 19 and 20 of the corresponding PCT application; the Examiner did not indicate a particular portion as being relevant. This document was also cited as being an "A" category document with respect to claims 4, 5, 11, 12 and 18 of the corresponding PCT application.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the documents noted above and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted documents are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. A copy of the International Search Report from the Japanese Patent Office is also enclosed, as well as English language abstracts of each of the Japanese language documents cited. Accordingly, the Examiner is

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requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby call the following copending and commonly assigned patent application to the Examiner's attention:

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/778,895 to 0Y0AMADA et al., filed February 8, 2001, and entitled Multimedia Copy Control System and Method Using Digital Data Recording Medium and Optical Disc Reproducing Apparatus.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(iii), a copy of the above-noted patent application, as filed, is attached hereto.

Should there be any questions regarding this paper, please contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
T. SENOH et al.

Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

June 10, 2002
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1941 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, Virginia 20191
(703) 716-1191

